



TO: Commissioner Michael Gongora, Chair

Members of the Sustainability Committee

Maui Goodbeer – Appointed by Commissioner Jerry Libbin
Lanette Sobel – Appointed by Commissioner Jorge Exposito
Debra Leibowitz – Appointed by Commissioner Deede Weithorn
Liliam Furst – Appointed by Commissioner Jonah Wolfson
Luiz Rodrigues – Appointed by Commissioner Ed Tobin
Gabriole Van Bryce – Appointed by Commissioner Michael Gongora
Mitch Novick – Appointed by Mayor Matti Herrera Bower

DATE: May 17, 2011

SUBJECT: **MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 17, 2011**

The meeting of the Sustainability Committee was held on Tuesday, May 17, 2011.

The attendees were as follows: Commissioner Michael Gongora, Chair; and Jorge Exposito. Committee members: Committee Chair Commissioner Michael Gongora, Maui Goodbeer, Lanette Sobel, Debra Leibowitz, Liliam Furst, Mitch Novick, Luiz Rodrigues, and Gabriole Van Bryce.

City Staff: Fred Beckmann, Public Works Director; Lisa Botero, Environmental Manager; Elizabeth Wheaton, Environmental Specialist; Saul Frances, Parking Director; Darlene Fernandez, Transportation Coordinator; and Colby Reese, DecoBike.

Minutes

1. Motion to approve minutes by Mitch Novick. Seconded by Luiz Rodrigues. Passed unanimously.

2. Alternative Transportation.

- a. Deco Bike Program. Colby Reese explained that the shared bicycle program is a partnership between the City and DecoBike, and that the City receives a portion of their profits from the rentals and the basket sponsorship. Mr. Reese provided the Committee with an update on the first two months of the DecoBike shared bicycle program. Deco Bike is in the process of adding additional stations in the Middle Beach and North Beach neighborhoods. Mrs. Debra Leibowitz stated that she is concerned that the stations are being placed in areas where parking is scarce and recommends that the City should make every effort to place the stations in areas that do not impact vehicle parking. Mr. Saul Frances stated that each station location must be approved

by multiple departments and only utilizes vehicle parking as a last alternative. Mr. Reese stated that DecoBike is looking to expand their operations into the City of Miami; this would allow users to travel between the two municipalities. Mr. Reese also explained that local businesses can receive 100% federal tax credit for purchasing memberships on behalf of employees that use the service at least 10 times per month. Mitch Novick inquired about the maintenance of the bicycles. Mr. Reese explained that the bicycles are custom made to withstand the elements and heavy usage and to date there has been a low level of vandalism.

b. City Parking Initiatives. Mr. Frances provided the Committee with updates on the City's parking initiatives.

i. Electric Charging Stations. Mr. Frances stated that the City reissued a revised Request for Proposal (RFP) to begin a pilot Electric Charging Station Program at the 13th Street garage. Mr. Frances stated that the electric charging stations would be located on higher levels of the garage with signage on the ground levels to inform drivers of the program. Ms. Gabriole Van Bryce, Ms. Lanette Sobel, and Mr. Luiz Rodrigues expressed that they believe that the electric car charging stations should be given preferential parking on the ground level of the garage in order to promote alternative vehicles. Commissioner Michael Gongora asked that Mr. Frances provide a copy of the RFP to the Committee for review. Commissioner Gongora also asked that Ms. Van Bryce and Ms. Sobel research other municipalities and provide the Committee with an update and resolution in June.

ii. Hybrid and ILEV (Inherently Low Emission Vehicle) Parking. Mr. Frances explained that motor vehicles with an EPA rating of 6 or higher qualify receive a 50% discount at parking lots, garages, and residential parking permits. In addition, they may purchase a city wide parking pass for \$100 valid at metered parking.

iii. Car Sharing Program. Mr. Frances stated that Hertz Connect is in negotiations with the Legal Department. Luiz Rodrigues made a motion recommending that the Inherently Low Emission Vehicle (ILEV) class of the Hertz Connect's fleet or any other car-sharing program have a minimum EPA rating of six (6). Motion seconded by Ms. Van Bryce. Motion passed unanimously.

- c. City Transportation Initiatives. Ms. Darlene Fernandez provided an overview of the City's Transportation Division. Ms. Fernandez explained the advantages of bicycle lanes, shared-use lanes, and countdown and audible pedestrian signal and crosswalks. Mrs. Fernandez mentioned that bike lanes are proposed in all City, County, and State Projects where there is space available. Also, the City is evaluating the use of shared-use lanes (Sharrows) in areas such as Washington Avenue where there is not enough space for an actual bicycle lane. Mrs. Fernandez discussed Think Bike Workshop which was held with The Netherlands Dutch bicycle experts to develop strategies for increased bicycle use throughout Miami-Dade County. The workshop addressed bicycle safety, commuting by bicycle, cycling to school, parking and law enforcement. Commissioner Exposito stated that he would like to see a bike path that would connect North Beach and South Beach. Ms. Botero provided the Committee with an overview of the Atlantic Greenway Network (AGN), which includes the beachwalk system that will eventually run adjacent to the beach from 87th Street to South Point Park. These improvements include demolishing and replacing it with a wider on-grade pedestrian pathway. Mr. Rodrigues inquired about the proposed Baylink Project. Commissioner Gongora stated that the project was approved, however, there is no funding and it is ranked low on the County's priority list. Seth Wasserman stated that the City could encourage the County to look adding a bus route would be similar to the proposed Baylink at a subsidized cost to encourage use.

3. New Business

- a. Mr. Luiz Rodrigues inquired about the collection and use of the funds that were to be collected annually as part of the waste haulers franchisee agreement. Mr. Rodrigues requested the minutes from the Sustainability Committee meeting where the haulers' contract was discussed. **ACTION:** Staff will locate these minutes and distribute to Committee via e-mail.
- b. Mrs. Leibowitz continues to believe effective education and outreach is necessary to successfully promote green issues and ideas to the public.
- c. Mr. Rodrigues invited reps from Organic Green Solutions to discuss how they provide environmental friendly services that contribute to a sustainable society at a future meeting.
- d. Ms. Gabriole Van Bryce brought up the issue of the County's Green Certification Program. Recommended Commissioner Michael Gongora meet with Ms. Maribel Balbin with Miami Dade County's Office of Sustainability to further discuss the feasibility of the County and the City entering a

partnership. Commissioner Gongora requested that a meeting be arranged to discuss the logistics further. **ACTION:** Staff to arrange meeting.

4. Sustainability Committee Work Plan

- a. Ms. Botero stated that the Committee will be discussing Economic Development in June and Natural Resources & Ecosystem Management in July. Members should email staff any initiatives that they would like to discuss under these topics.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

The proceedings of this meeting have been recorded. Please contact Patricia Bocio at 305.673.7080 or pbocio@miamibeachfl.gov for more information.


FHB/HDC/LEB/ESW